

GOVERNOR'S FAMILY VIOLENCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 11, 2016

Heritage Office Complex – Chesapeake Room

ATTENDEES

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Michelle Beaulieu on behalf of Rick Barth, Diana Cheng on behalf of Secretary Van T. Mitchell, Michael Cohen, Jessica Dickerson on behalf of Secretary Sam Abed, Deena Hausner on behalf of Dorothy Lennig, John McGinnis on behalf of Jack R. Smith, Lisa Nitsch, Akeda Pearson, Adam Rosenberg, Manuel Ruiz, Chris Shank, Carrie Williams on behalf of Attorney General Brian Frosh, Delegate Brett Wilson, David Wolinski on behalf of Secretary Stephen Moyer, and Jeanne Yeager.,

COUNCIL MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Michelle Fager, Debbie Feinstein, Jodi Finkelstein, Arlene Lee, Secretary Sam Malhotra, Colonel William Pallozzi, Scott Patterson, Manuel Ruiz, Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford, David Shultie, Senator Bryan Simonaire, Joan Stine, and Delegate Kriselda Valderrama.

STAFF: Kim Herndon and Nakita Long

GUESTS: Cara Sullivan

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS: Chris Shank began the meeting at approximately 10:05 a.m. Introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- ❖ Motion: Approve the Minutes of October 16, 2015
- ❖ Vote: Seconded and unanimously approved.

LEGISLATION

- ❖ Stalking and Electronic Harassment
 - A workgroup has been established to review the current stalking and harassment statutes to determine why they are so difficult to prosecute under the current statute as written
 - The workgroup consists of members of the Family Violence Council and States' Attorneys.
 - After reviewing the current stalking, harassment, telephone misuse, misuse of electronic communication and revenge porn statutes, the group has agreed to take the following actions:
 - Add "cause serious emotional distress" to the stalking statute;
 - Remove "malicious" from each of these statutes;
 - Site one act of abuse (Title 3, Subtitle 8 of the Criminal Law Article) under the peace order statute §3-1503.
 - Lisae Jordan is drafting the bill.
 - The group will continue to develop a strategy to determine the best course to go about having this legislation passed including possibly networking with the National Stalking Resource Center.

WORKGROUPS

- ❖ Domestic Violence in the Presence of a Child
 - The "Fighting in the Home: Is Your Child Being Affected?" brochure that was created by the workgroup was reviewed again by clinicians in response to recommendations made by a focus group who reviewed the brochures. A final draft of the brochure was provided to the Council and some formatting suggestions were made along with a suggestion to add the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention to the brochure and a publication date.
 - A Motion to approve the brochure was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

- Once the brochures are finalized, they will be disseminated to different service providers and placed in various locations throughout the state.
- Nakita Long with work with John McGinnis, Maryland State Department of Education in an effort to have the brochures disseminated in schools and libraries in Maryland.
- ❖ Best Practices for Family Justice Centers
 - A focus group was held on Thursday, October 22, 2015 to obtain input from the victim community and determine how systems within a Family Justice Center would be used and where they would need to be placed.
 - The workgroup will also focus its efforts on conducting a needs assessment of service providers to determine what victims needs are and what resources are needed throughout the state.
 - Jeanne Yeager, Vicki Sadehvandi and Nakita Long will tour the Center for Survivor Agency and Justice facility in Scranton, PA, which has a model similar to an FJC but focuses on economic empowerment for victims.
- ❖ AIP Certification and Audit Process Review
 - Dr. Tara Richards, University of Baltimore and Dr. Chris Murphy, University of Maryland worked with the workgroup and applied for and received BJAG funding to conduct a process evaluation of abuse intervention programs. The process evaluation is to determine what the philosophies and goals are of AIPs in Maryland, what the current practices are, how AIPs are adhering to the Guidelines, etc. Dr. Richards and Dr. Murphy are working on their Institutional Review Board (IRB) to begin the project.
- ❖ Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders
 - Martha Danner advised that all of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is in the process of rolling out additional modules to the Offender Case management System which includes changes to the violation module that were requested by the Abusers Not Meeting Conditions of Court Orders Workgroup.
 - The Information Technology and Communication Division (ITCD) have applied for a grant. The cost of the module is \$230,000. The steering committee will approve what funding will be spent on which modules.
- ❖ Domestic Violence Mapping Project
 - The Domestic Violence Mapping Project Ad Hoc Committee will hold a telephone conference on Tuesday, October 20, 2015. Nakita Long advised that only a small number of FVC members have contacted her regarding this Committee and that any other FVC members who wishes to be a part of this Committee should contact her.

VINE PROTECTIVE ORDER:

- ❖ VPO Statistics
 - During the month of October 2015, there were 3,141 protective orders issued. There were 554 registrations which mean that 18% of the total numbers of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
 - During the month of November 2015, there were 3,278 protective orders issued. There were 584 registrations which mean that 18% of the total numbers of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
 - During the month of September 2015, there were 3,383 protective orders issued. There were 592 registrations which mean that 18% of the total numbers of protective orders issued had related VPO registrations.
- ❖ Training
 - Several VPO trainings have occurred this year and a statewide VINE/VPO training is scheduled to occur at the MD Police and Correctional Training Commissions on October 21 & 22, 2015.
 - Nakita Long noted that VPO usage is continuing to increase and she will continue to provide VPO training.
- ❖ Issues
 - No issues were noted however, FVC members were reminded to contact Nakita Long should they experience any issues while using VPO.

FVC MEMBERSHIP:

- ❖ Diana Cheng advised that she is retiring from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She expressed her gratitude for being a part of the group and advised that a new designee will be appointed by the Secretary.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ The University of Maryland School of Social Work, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH), hosted its first symposium to address intimate partner violence as a continuing public health crisis.
- ❖ My Covenant Place, in collaboration with the University of Baltimore's School of Health and Human Services, is hosting its first Annual Domestic Violence forum on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 from 5:30 until 8:00 pm. Nakita Long advised that she will forward the flyer to FVC members.
- ❖ Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) - A victims' roundtable, hosted by Anne Seymour, Consultant for Pew Charitable Contributions, was held in Anne Arundel County on October 9, 2015. JRI is a strategy to improve individual and public safety, hold offenders accountable, reduce criminal justice spending and reinvest saving in strategies that can reduce crimes. JRI partners include Maryland's Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) and Department of Juvenile Services (DJS).

ADJOURNMENT:

- ❖ Meeting adjourned approximately 12:00 PM.